(b) There is no proposal with the Government at present to reduce issue price.

(c) and (d) Based on the decision arrived in the High Power Committee (HPC) meeting held on 14.8.99 the claims of the Government of Gujarat for the Railway freight and forwarding charges in respect of the stocks of foodgrains lifted by road from other than designated depots for the TPDS from 11.2.97 onwards have been/are being admitted by the FCI district offices after joint verification/scrutiny. For claims prior to 11.2.97, complete information is being collected and a meeting of the HPC will be convened shortly thereafter.

Request of Roller Flour Millers Association

1666. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Roller Flour Millers Association for reduction of open market sale price of wheat from FCL as has been done for North Zone;

(b) whether Government are exporting wheat at Rs. 4200 per ton;

(c) if so, the reasons for not providing wheat to Roller Flour Millers at the same rate; and

(d) what is Government's approach to ensure availability of cheaper wheat products in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) To augment the availability of wheat for manufacture of wheat products, the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) is being implemented through FCI. Under the Scheme wheat is made available for sale including to Roller Flour Mills at subsidized rates.